

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today, Senator BURR and I are introducing a resolution that reaffirms the importance of the Medicaid prospective payment system for federally qualified health centers.

Federally qualified health centers—community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers—form the backbone of the Nation's health care safety net. FQHC's provide cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved, including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations.

Federally qualified health centers serve nearly 1 of 5 low-income children. Two-thirds of health center patients are members of racial and ethnic minority groups. And over 675,000 homeless persons receive care at health centers every year.

FQHC's play a particularly critical role in serving patients enrolled in Medicaid. Health centers provide care to nearly 6 million of the 53 million people enrolled in the Medicaid Program nationwide. Thirty-six percent of all FQHC patients are Medicaid beneficiaries compared to 12 percent nationally. Notably, the cost of treating Medicaid patients at FQHCs is about one-third less than the cost for those receiving care elsewhere, with drug costs alone about 25 percent lower.

In 2000, a bipartisan majority of the Congress established a prospective payment system, or PPS, to ensure that FQHC's receive fair Medicaid reimbursement. This system strikes a balance between protecting Federal investment in such health centers and allowing State flexibility in designing the payment system for these centers. The PPS allows health centers to provide and expand primary care services to more people in need, promotes efficient operation of FQHC's, and ensures they receive adequate Medicaid reimbursement.

Today, PPS has allowed health centers to provide quality health care to nearly 15 million people nationally, while also delivering significant cost savings to the Medicaid Program. Congress should recognize the critical role of such health centers as the primary source of care for millions of Medicaid recipients and uninsured Americans and support continuation of the prospective payment system.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 66—AFFIRMING THAT THE INTENT OF CONGRESS IN PASSING THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997 WAS TO ALLOW HUNTING AND FISHING ON PUBLIC LAND WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM AND DECLARING THAT THE PURPOSE OF RESERVING CERTAIN LAND AS PUBLIC LAND IS TO MAKE THE LAND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR REASONABLE USES

Mr. VITTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. CON. RES. 66

Whereas hunting and fishing have a long and distinguished history in the United States;

Whereas hunting and fishing remain an important part of the lifestyle and culture of people from many different areas of the country and from all walks of life;

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen have worked for decades to ensure that public land and other land that is used for hunting and fishing is cared for, protected, and preserved;

Whereas the land that makes up the National Wildlife Refuge System has been widely used for hunting, fishing, and other sporting purposes;

Whereas in 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1252), which clearly and directly stated that hunting and fishing, as wildlife-dependent recreational activities, could be considered compatible uses of public land, including land within the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1252) passed by a vote of 419-1, demonstrating the nonpartisan nature of the legislation and the tremendous amount of support the legislation enjoyed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) in passing the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1252), Congress demonstrated its clear intent to allow hunting and fishing on the public land within the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(2) the intent of Congress has not changed in any way since the date of enactment of that Act, and any assumption to the contrary is misguided and misinterprets the clear intent of Congress; and

(3) the general purpose of reserving certain land as public land, including the land within the National Wildlife Refuge System, is to make the land available to the public for reasonable uses, including hunting, fishing, other wildlife-dependent sports, and other outdoor purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2598. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2599. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. SMITH) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2600. Mr. SHELBY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 467, to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

SA 2601. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

SA 2602. Mr. CONRAD proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2603. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2604. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. OBAMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2605. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2606. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2607. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2608. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2609. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. GREGG, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BURR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2610. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2611. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2612. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2613. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2614. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2615. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2020, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2616. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. OBAMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2020, supra.

SA 2617. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him